



Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics

**POVERTY AND SPATIAL LOCATION ALONG
INDUSTRIALISATION. BARCELONA, 1787-1860**

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2011



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El document es va presentar, en format pòster, a la
Population Association of America. Annual Meeting 2011.
Washington (EUA), del 31 de març al 2 d'abril de 2011.

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Pobresa i localització espacial durant la industrialització. Barcelona, 1787-1860

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Paraules clau.- Pobresa, industrialització, Llibre d'Esposalles, Barcelona.

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Palabras clave.- Pobreza, industrialización, Libro de Esponsales, Barcelona.

Poverty and Spatial location Along Industrialisation. Barcelona, 1787-1860

The document was presented in poster format at the *Population Association of America. Annual Meeting 2011*. Washington (USA), 31 March - 2 April, 2011.

Keywords.- Poverty, industrialisation, *Llibre d'Esposalles*, Barcelona.

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Poverty and Spatial Location along Industrialisation, Barcelona, 1787-1860

Anna Cabré, Joana Maria Pujadas Mora, Miquel Valls Fígols, Albert Garcia Soler

INTRODUCTION

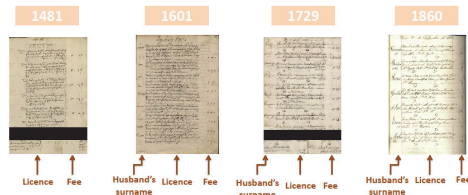
The demolition of the walls around Barcelona started as late as 1854. In the enclosed space of what is today the old city, Industrialisation took place. Barcelona was transformed from an important commercial and administrative centre into one of the densest manufacturing conglomerates in Europe. In 1858, not less than 563 industrial establishments devoted to the different textile activities were located inside of the walls of the city of Barcelona, mainly in the western and eastern parts of the city. Attracted by a flourishing labour market, successive migration waves caused the doubling of the population between 1787 and 1860. This increase, from roughly 100,000 to almost 200,000 inhabitants, corresponds to a sustained annual average growth of around 1 per cent over 73 years. This growth is quite extraordinary considering the negative sign of the natural increase, conditioned by very high mortality rates and by a fertility which started its decline among the first in Europe, before 1850 in all probabilities.

AIM

The present contribution focus on the changes in the levels of poverty and its location along the process of Industrialisation and population growth, observed through two cross-sectional images of 1787 and 1860 in Barcelona. Comparisons are carried with the trends observed in other sections of the Grand Barcelona, industrial as well as agrarian parishes in order to explore possible causes of the increase in poverty.

DATA SOURCE : LLIBRE D'ESPOSALLES

On September 27, 1409, Pope Benedict XIII (Pedro Martínez de Luna), visited Barcelona and granted the new Cathedral a tax on marriage licenses (*esposalles*) to be raised on every union celebrated in the Diocese. This tax was maintained until the third decade of the 20th century. Between 1451 and 1905, a centralized register, called *Llibres d'Esposalles* recorded all the marriages and the fees posed on them according to their social class. This exceptional documentary treasure, conserved at the Archive of the Barcelona Cathedral, comprises 261 books with information on approximately 600,000 marriages celebrated in over 250 parishes, ranging from the most urban core of the city to the most rural villages in the periphery of the Diocese.



Along all of the 456 years, the same gradient of taxes has been maintained, though slight changes have been operated into the classification of categories and occupations belonging to each level (7-8 levels, depending on the socio-economic status of the husband). In the present contribution we shall deal only with one category, those exonerated from paying taxes because of their extreme poverty. They were married *Amore Dei* or *Gratia Dei*, for free, in the Deanship of Barcelona (a main part of the Diocese of Barcelona). Because of the taxing purpose of the classification and the centralized control of the tax-collecting system, we will assume that the defining criteria of groups must have been relatively homogeneous through time and space.

PROJECT : FIVE CENTURIES OF MARRIAGES (5CofM)

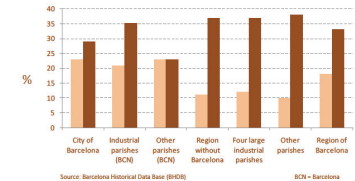
Five Centuries of Marriages (5CofM) is an Advanced Grant project directed by Anna Cabré funded by the European Commission, through the IDEAS Programme of the European Research Council. This project is a long-term research initiative based on the data-mining of the *Llibres d'Esposalles* conserved at the Archive of the Barcelona Cathedral for the period 1451-1905. A unique documentary source that will be used to create the Barcelona Historical Marriages Database. The BHMD will make possible a whole range of studies in historical demography, historical geography, and social history. The investigation is carried out by a team of researchers from the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona* (UAB), *Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics* (CED) and *Centre per Visió per Computador* (CVC). Also the historical research and the research on computer-aided recognition of ancient manuscripts will find in this project a privileged ground for collaboration and reciprocal support.

FINDINGS

POVERTY INCREASE, 1787-1860

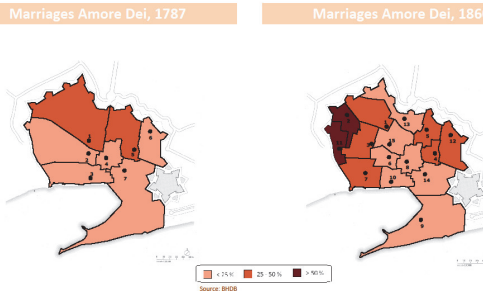
Poverty increased in Barcelona city along Industrialisation: marriages *amore dei* represented 23% of marriages in 1787 and 29% in 1860. The comparison with the 90 parishes of the Grand Barcelona throws interesting results. In 1787, poverty in Barcelona (23%) more than doubled that of the rest of the area, mainly rural (10%). In 1860, the ranking is reversed: Barcelona had 29% of poor, while the rest of the area had 37%.

Considering separately the four largest parishes of the area (Sabadell, Mataró, Badalona and Terrassa), all of them industrial, it appears that their poverty was similar to poverty in the industrial sections of Barcelona. The increase of poverty had been more acute, though. At the same time, poverty in the smaller rural parishes had increased even more, from 10% to 38%, suggesting causes linked to the agrarian world.



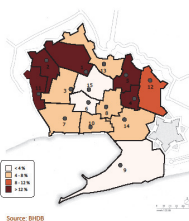
The city of Barcelona

Spatial concentration of poverty become higher in the city of Barcelona: in 1787, none of the parishes exceeded 27% of paupers, while in 1860 in the old and new industrial areas (east and west), the poor were sometimes the majority. In all of the 7 (new) parishes covering these areas, the marriage *Amore Dei* represented at least one third of the total amount, and in two parishes they were more than 50%.

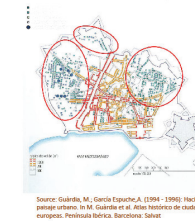


In 1860, the map of poverty in Barcelona corresponds to the map of industrial workers, here measured by the proportion of weavers among the newly wed, and to the location of industrial establishments.

Weavers, 1860

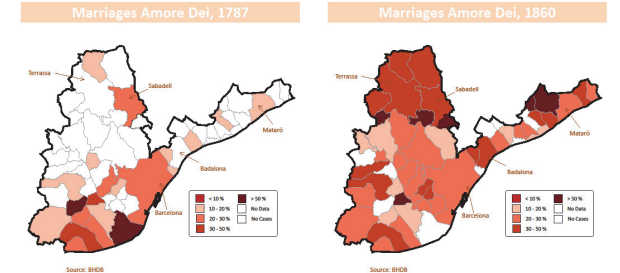


Location of Industry, 1860



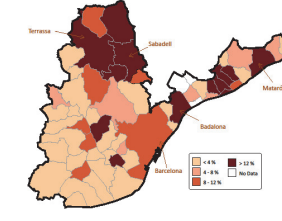
Region of Barcelona (Deanship)

In the region of Barcelona, almost every single parish has increased the proportion of poor between 1787 and 1860. The increase is particularly important in the larger parishes, known to be industrial. What about the smaller?

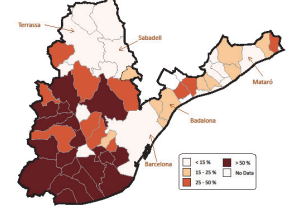


The two maps show respectively the proportion of peasants and the proportion of weavers among the newly wed. Poverty seems to be directly related to the proportion of industrial workers and inversely related to the weight of peasants.

Weavers, 1860



Farmers, 1860



DISCUSSION

- ✓ The increase of poverty between 1787 and 1860 in the Barcelona inner city is an industrial rather than an urban effect.
- ✓ In the parishes of the grand Barcelona, poverty appears also to be of industrial origin, independently of the size of the parish.
- ✓ Rural populations with industrial activity have much higher poverty than agrarian parishes of the same size. This excludes significant effects of agrarian factors.

This poster is funded by the Five Centuries of Marriages project (ERC-AG-2007700).

**POVERTY AND SPATIAL LOCATION ALONG INDUSTRIALISATION.
BARCELONA, 1787-1860¹**

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1.- Introduction

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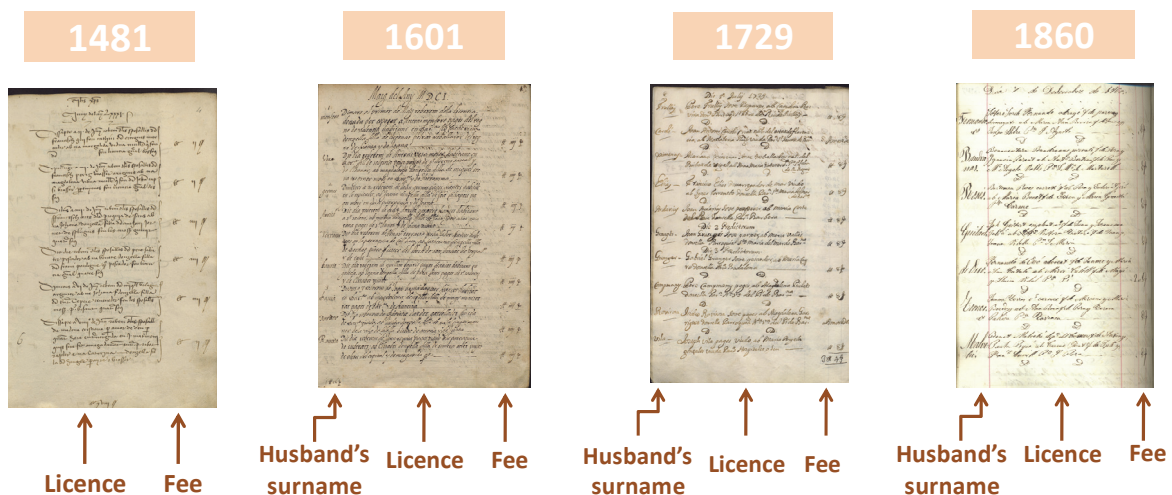
¹ This poster is funded by the *Five Centuries of Marriages* project (ERC-AdG_269796).

2.- Aim

The present contribution focus on the changes in the levels of poverty and its location along the process of Industrialisation and population growth, observed through two cross-sectional images of 1787 and 1860 in Barcelona. Comparisons are carried with the trends observed in other sections of the Grand Barcelona, industrial as well as agrarian parishes in order to explore possible causes of the increase in poverty.

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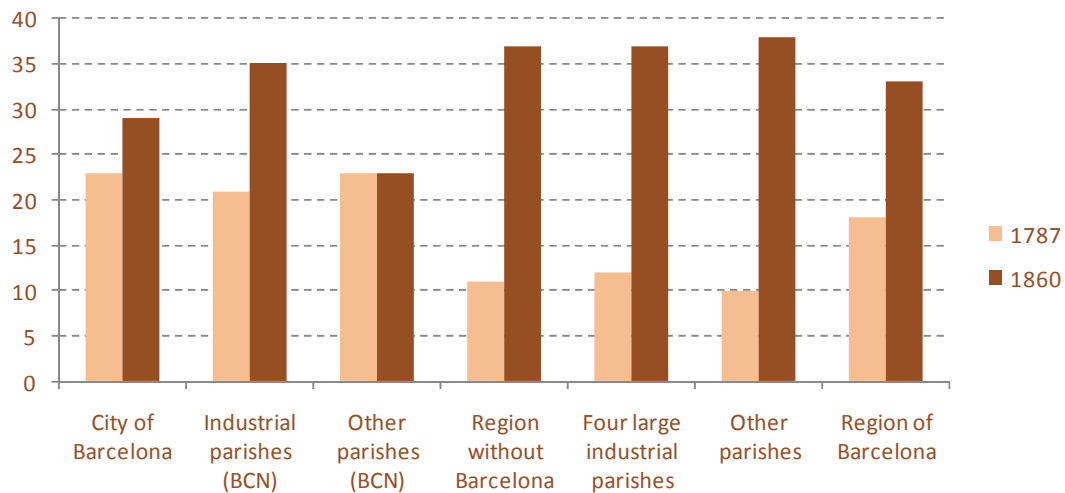
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Poverty, 1787 and 1860



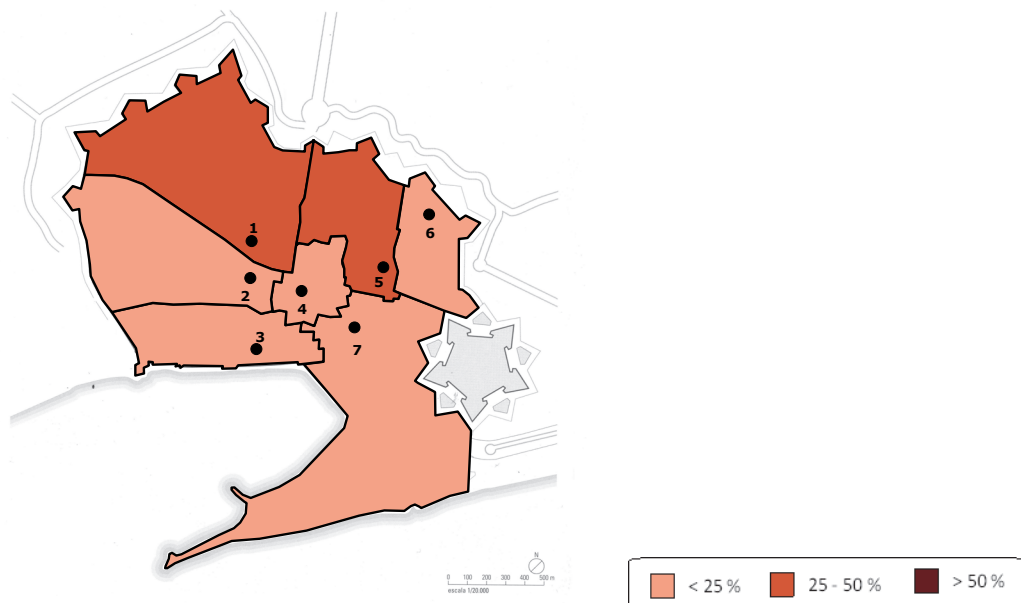
Source: Barcelona Historical Data Base (BHDB)

BCN = Barcelona

5.1.- The city of Barcelona

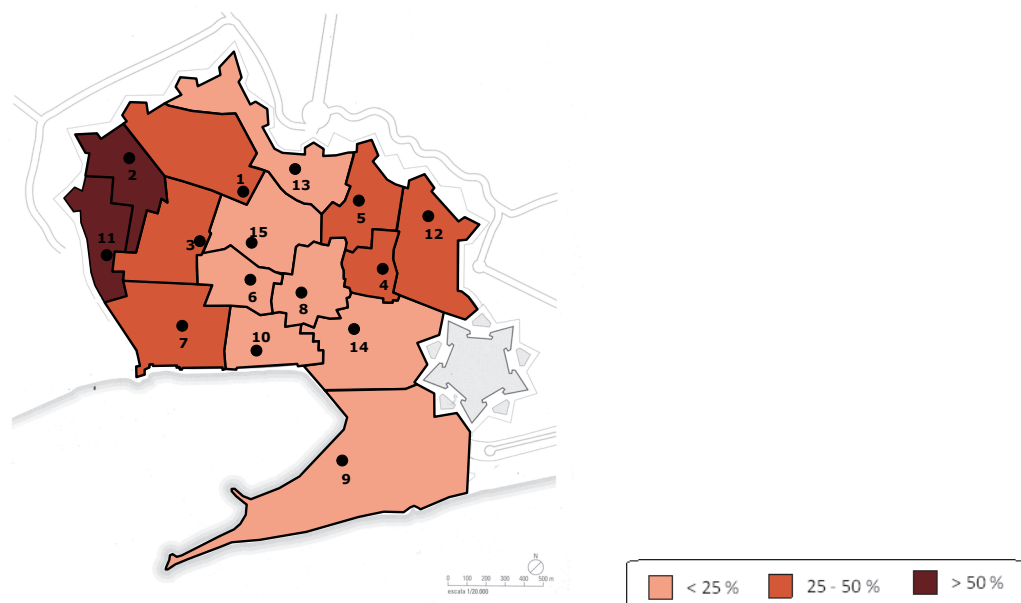
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Marriages Amore Dei, 1787



Source: BHDB.

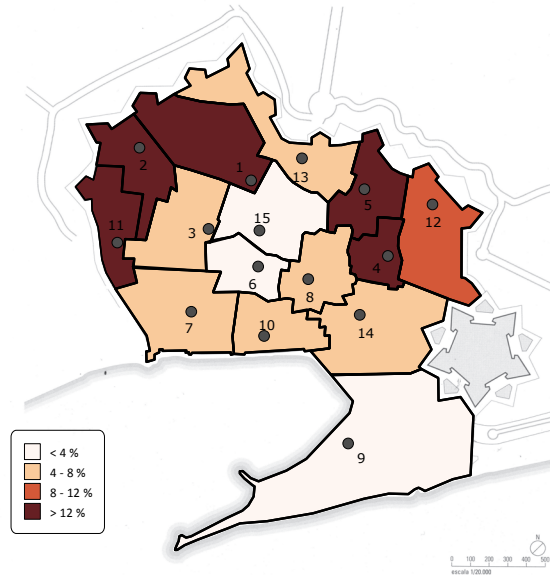
Marriages Amore Dei, 1860



Source: BHDB.

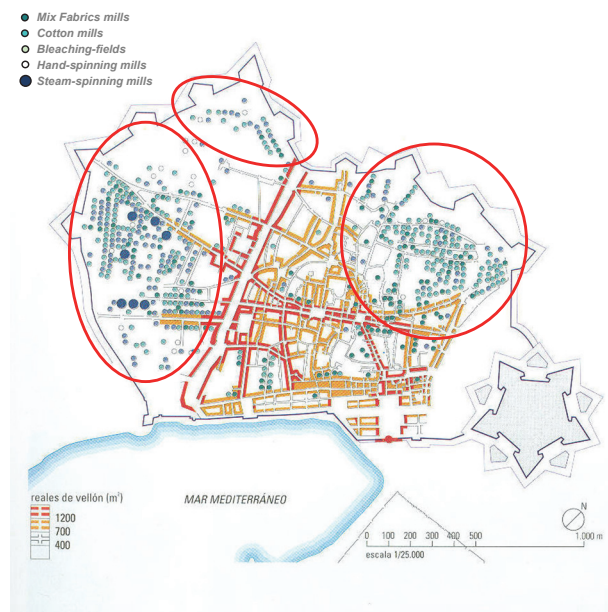
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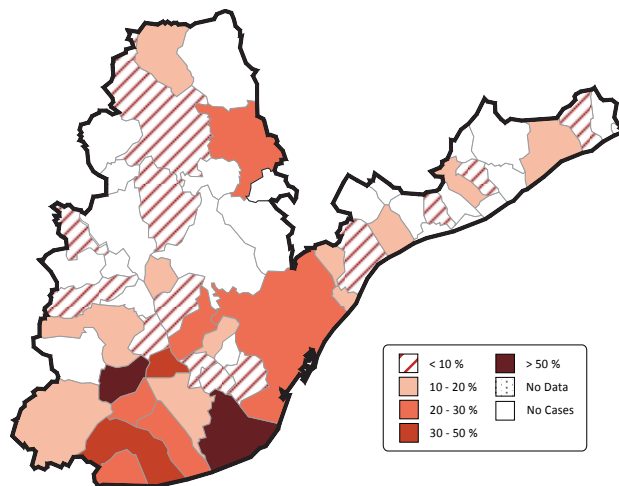


Source: Guàrdia, M.; García Espuche, A. (1994-1996). "Hacia un paisaje urbano". M. Guàrdia et al. *Atlas histórico de ciudades europeas. Península Ibérica*. Barcelona: Salvat.

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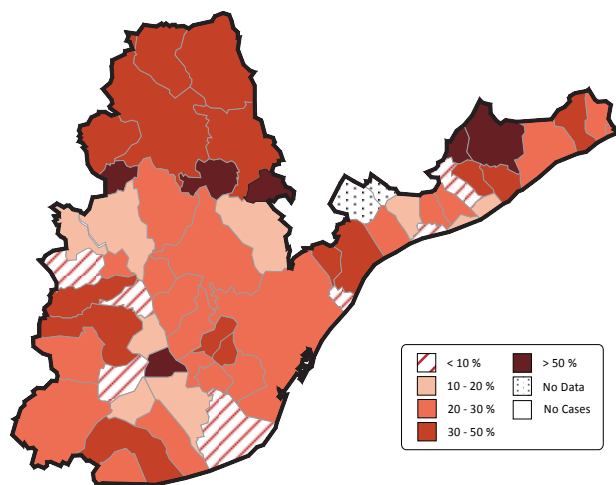
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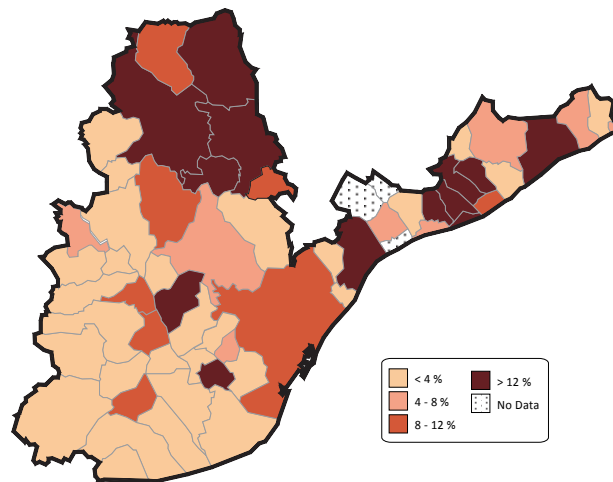
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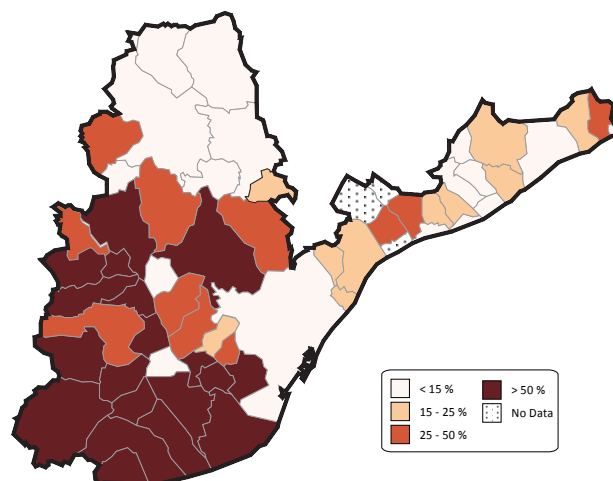
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